

THE PROGRAMME ADOPTED FOR THE NEXT A. W. L. CONGRESS.

The Question of Scoring—The average results of scoring in the past have been different in various sections and in different clubs.

At the midwinter meeting of the executive of the American Whist League the programme of events for the next congress was adopted practically as published in THE SUN on Nov. 29.

The only change of importance was in the system adopted for the Minneapolis pair contest. The suggestion was to play Mitchell compass with three trumps and then to play the final round in the compass games to be eligible.

The defects of this system were easily recognized, and the committee at Buffalo wisely changed it. It is now settled that the preliminary rounds will be played on the Mitchell system for moving and then to play the final round in the compass games to be eligible.

There is no doubt that the subject which is attracting so much attention among the whist players is the comparative merits of the various systems for determining the results in pair playing. There is an undoubted prejudice against the Howell system of scoring; partly because everything appears as a loss, and the largest gains do not show on the Mitchell compass.

It has lately become much the fashion for players to take long shots on certain hands and when the aim is well taken they frequently bring in big game. The trouble with most of these long shots is that they do not exercise good judgment in selecting the hands upon which they take such chances.

It is found that the averaging system was the easiest and quickest for the scores, unless the dealer had to be gone into to settle ties. This sometimes means changing the score on Jan. 27 two pairs tied for the top score with eleven tricks each. On counting up the actual trick score by decimals, it was found that one had beaten the other by 5.8 tricks.

Three ways of scoring were tried on each match. First, the Howell method, taking the maximum on calling each hand a match, and averaging its value, disregarding the decimals, so that if a hand was 9.3 one way and 4.7 the other, it was called 9.3 by hand. Everything above the average was called a half, and the exact average was called a half.

Second, the Mitchell method, taking the maximum on calling each hand a match, and averaging its value, disregarding the decimals, so that if a hand was 9.3 one way and 4.7 the other, it was called 9.3 by hand. Everything above the average was called a half, and the exact average was called a half.

Third, the decimals were preserved in every hand, and each pair was called by its actual score. This was done at the Whist Club and Staten Island on Jan. 27. The result was that the Mitchell compass and Foster were 10 and Z respectively.

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Table with columns for Trick, A, Y, B, Z and rows for 1 through 13.

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THE PACERS ARE STAYERS.

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